

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. EASY — 1 mile. You will find the twenty most common trees in Indiana marked for your convenience along this trail. The trail also winds around four prehistoric mounds, one of which is the Great Mound, the main focal point of the park. A tree guide and mounds history guide can be obtained at the Visitor Center.
- 2. RUGGED — .5 mile. Begins at pavilion. Going to the left: it descends to a boardwalk that skirts a springfed creek and onto the backside of the Great Mound. When starting from behind the pavilion, it provides a shortcut down stairs to the White River and intersects with trail #5.
- 3. MODERATE — .9 mile. The trail descends into the woods from the first two parking lots on the left side of the road in the picnic area. It winds through the forest, providing views of different species of birds and animals. It intersects with trail #5 and skirts the backside of the pavilion.
- 4. RUGGED — .7 mile. Begins from the back parking lot at the pool. This trail is suited for the avid hiker, because of its rugged terrain and steep hills. It can be traveled to and from the campground via a long boardwalk, which descends into a ravine with a creek and then climbs up the bluff. It provides a scenic overlook with all types of wildlife and many of our feathered friends. It intersects trail #5 three times.
- 5. MODERATE WITH HILLS — 2.5 miles. Begins at the main gate and skirts the boundary of the park. It provides a scenic view as it follows along the White River and the limestone bluffs. One might catch glimpses of different types of waterfowl and aquatic life. It crosses several creeks and goes on into the woods, where all kinds of songbirds make their home, along with upland game. This is a great trail for spring wildflower enthusiasts and the majestic hardwood trees that populate the forest. It is the longest and most popular trail in the park.
- 6. MODERATE — .4 mile. Begins at the campground control station and can take you either to the campground or the canoe launch area. This trail works great for the camper who wants to fish, or purchase minor items from the camp store. It's a great trail to take a short hike and enjoy the "out-of-doors."

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!
BICYCLES PROHIBITED ON TRAILS!

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

FAMILY CAMPING — The campground is fully equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Each site provides picnic table and grill. All campsites are Class A electrical sites. A dumping station is also available. Occupancy is limited to two (2) weeks. Firewood for sale seasonally. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

YOUTH TENT AREA — Primitive camping for church and other youth groups, scout troops, etc. under adult supervision. Equipped with water and vault toilets. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

FISHING — White River—bass, bluegill, catfish, and more. State license required for those aged 17-65.

HIKING — 6 miles of easy-to-rugged hiking on the park's 6 trails.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Year-round; a variety of activities are offered for the entire family. Also available by request for church, scout, school, and civic groups. Inquire at Visitor Center, park office, or gatehouse. Program schedules are available by visiting the website at www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/ or calling (765) 649-8128.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, restroom facilities, timberform playground equipment and open play fields are all available.

SHELTER HOUSES — 2 available year round in picnic area. Use is first come - first served, or may be rented/reserved for specific date. Pavilion available April through December, must be reserved/rented. Includes chairs, tables, kitchen facilities, fire-place, restrooms. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

SWIMMING — Large, modern pool and bathhouse with wading pool; 500 person capacity. Open the Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day. Concessions available here. Swimming not permitted elsewhere in the park.

VISITOR CENTER — Open year round; includes property office, interpretive center, wildlife viewing room and modern restrooms. Interpretive center includes live animals, interactive exhibits for children and adults, display of Great Mound area and much more.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- All pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups in the family campground.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- Park is closed from 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM. No one is allowed in the park except for campers using their sites between these hours.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS


Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.camp.IN.gov
1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.indianainns.com
1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Mounds State Park
4306 Mounds Road
Anderson, Indiana 46017
Call: (765) 642-6627

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.IN.gov/dnr


SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

MOUNDS
STATE PARK



Established in 1930, Mounds State Park contains and preserves some of the finest examples of earthwork and mound building in the state of Indiana. There are 10 mounds and earthworks located within the park's boundaries ranging in size from only a few inches tall to several feet high. They were built around 150 B.C. by the Adena and Hopewell cultures primarily for religious ceremonies. Research indicates these mounds were used to keep track of the seasons, the positions of over 100 of the brighter stars, as well as the moon and visible planets. The largest and best preserved of the park's mounds is the "Great Mound," easily accessible by using trail #1. Technically referred to as a "circular enclosure," this earthwork is the largest of its kind in the state, and is nearly one quarter of a mile in circumference.

Among the first inhabitants of this area were the Adena people, dating back to 1000 B.C. Primarily a hunting/gathering culture, they left their mark by the construction of several mounds, from which the park gets its name. Although later cultures, such as the Hopewell, used some of the earthworks for burial purposes, these unique earthen features seem to have been used for astronomical observations and prehistoric calendars. Although much has been learned about the mounds and the people that built and used them, many questions remain unanswered. Why did the people disappear? What happened to them? Although many theories abound, no one has the answers.

In the early 19th century, a family of German immigrants, the Bronnenbergs, arrived and made this site their home. Owning more than 600 acres, these folks operated a large farm, with their fields and pastures located in the present-day picnic areas. They were also known to be lovers of fine horses and would hold races on what is today Mounds Road. One of the sons, Frederick Bronnenberg Jr., built a two-story brick farmhouse that stands to this day. Constructed in the 1840's, virtually every bit of the house came from the surrounding woodlands -- the foundation is limestone quarried from nearby White River, the bricks handmade on site, and most of the woodwork is tuliptree.

In 1897, some of the Bronnenberg land was sold to the Indiana Union Traction Company, which operated an amusement park in the southern end of the property. Attractions included a roller coaster, roller skating rink, shooting gallery, carousel, boat rides on the river, and pavilion with a restaurant on the first floor and a dance hall on the second. Many dance marathons of the "roaring 20's" were held here! But when Wall Street crashed and the Great Depression began, this business, like so many others, simply failed. The Madison County Historical Society then purchased the land and donated it to the state of Indiana. Mounds Park became Mounds State Park in October of 1930.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly.